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Khemraj Designs

Ministry of Arts & Culture

IBL

GARAGE DEERAJ AUTO CO LTD

NATIONAL art GALLERY

DEV CHOORAMUN

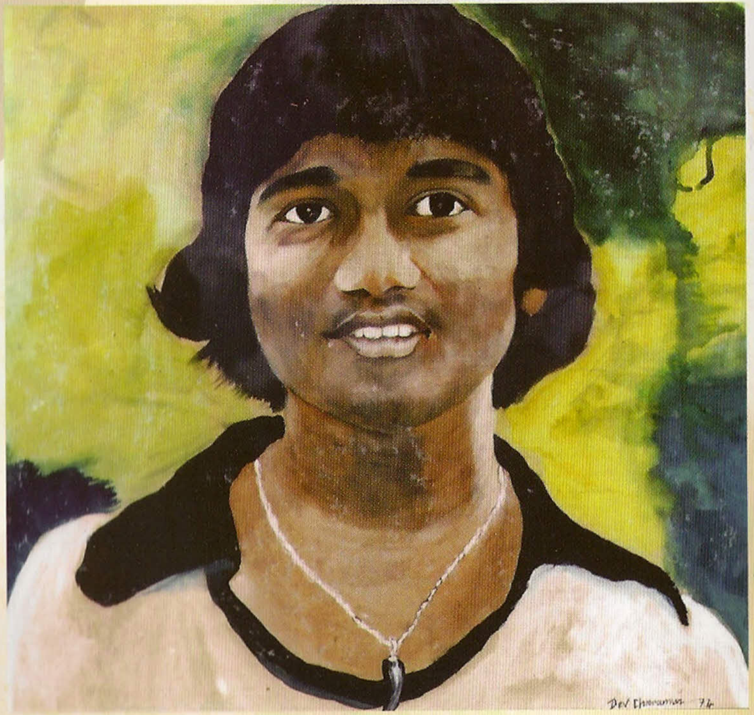
(1980 - 2010)

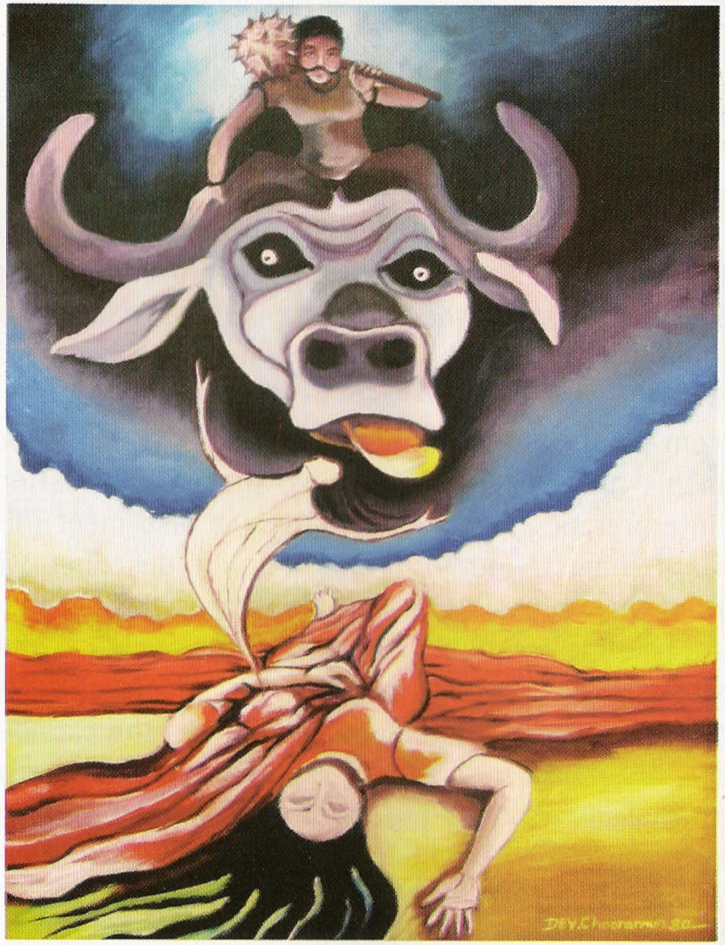
IBL Art Gallery

Dr. Ferrier Str.
Port - Louis

13th - 18th Dec. 10

' Art is an intuition of spirit transformed into senses, whatever a creative mind thinks becomes sensual. Art must be objective, meaningful, and intuitive demonstrating creative intelect, emotional vibrancy and spiritual enlightenement. '





Life after Death

Oil on Board
45 x 59cm
1980

'Death is not extinguishing the light.
It is only putting out the lamp
because the dawn has come.
Rabindranath Tagore

For many years Dev Chooramun has given his own personal interpretations of the indigenous plants in Mauritius. Flowers in close-ups, especially orchids, have been given personality and attention claiming individuality through exaggerated lines and emphasis on their colours. His way of depicting flowers and their forms show a close relationship to the Iris series of Georgia O'Keeffe from the 1920's, but with the strong personal touch and sensitivity of Dev Chooramun. There is a strong sense of the surrealism in his works.

In his recent paintings, he develops a new theme. This time it is the birdlife in his native island, Mauritius, that gets his attention and creative interpretation. Among the birds, we also meet the Dodo as an important character. Its form and body are described with plants and fruits of the country. Here he paraphrases the Italian 15th Century artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. But while Arcimboldo used fruits and other vegetative parts to portray living characters of his time, Dev Chooramun portrays the threatened wildlife and the extinct Dodo. By interpreting an old art tradition, he brings the bird of the past alive. But the surrealistic way it is portrayed gives a contemporary edge to the beautiful surface of the artworks and embed in art important and urgent issues as sustainable development and conservation of our natural surroundings.

Dev Chooramun is an artist that pursues his own path and, with his fantastic and surreal images, he makes us all more aware of the beauty and the fragility of our natural surroundings.

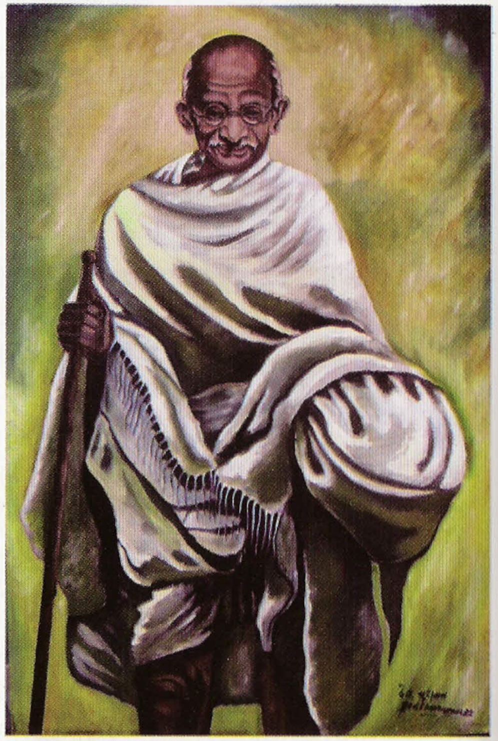
Grete Marstein
(Norwegian Art Historian and Visual Artist)
Executive Member - IAA/AIAP (UNESCO)

Durant des années, Dev Chooramun a partagé avec nous son interprétation personnelle des plantes indigènes de Maurice. De par son utilisation de traits dramatiques et de par sa palette d'harmonies intenses, il donne aux fleurs présentées en gros plan, en particulier les orchidées, une personnalité si particulière que, non seulement, elles séduisent, mais revendiquent également une individualité. Sa représentation des fleurs et de leurs formes n'est pas sans rappeler la série Iris de Georgia O'keeffe des années 1920, mais avec, en plus, la touche personnelle et la sensibilité marquée de Dev Chooramun. Ses oeuvres dégagent un réel sens du surréalisme.

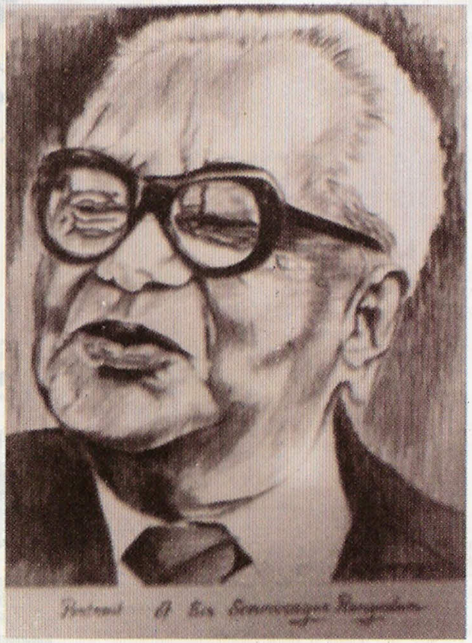
Dans ses derniers tableaux , Dev Chooramun explore un nouveau thème. Il s'agit du monde des oiseaux de son pays natal, l'île Maurice, qui a captivé son attention cette fois-ci, tout en sollicitant sa créativité. Parmi les oiseaux représentés, celui qui retient l'attention est le Dodo, dont le modelé du corps est mis en relief grâce à une juxtaposition de fruits et de végétaux du pays. Ici, Dev Chooramun se fait l'émule de l'artiste italien du 15e siècle Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Toutefois, si Arcimboldo utilisa des végétaux et d'autres objets pour créer des portraits de ses contemporains, il évoque, pour sa part, la faune et la flore menacées et le Dodo. En s'appropriant une ancienne tradition artistique, il redonne vie à l'oiseau disparu, mais l'approche surréaliste privilégiée par Dev Chooramun, apporte une touche contemporaine à ses oeuvres d'art remarquables et vient ancrer dans l'art une réflexion écologique portant sur des questions importantes et urgentes comme le développement durable et la sauvegarde de notre patrimoine naturel.

Dev Chooramun est un artiste qui poursuit son propre petit bonhomme de chemin tout en nous faisant prendre plus conscience de la beauté comme de la fragilité de notre environnement naturel grâce à ses peintures fantastiques et surréalistes.

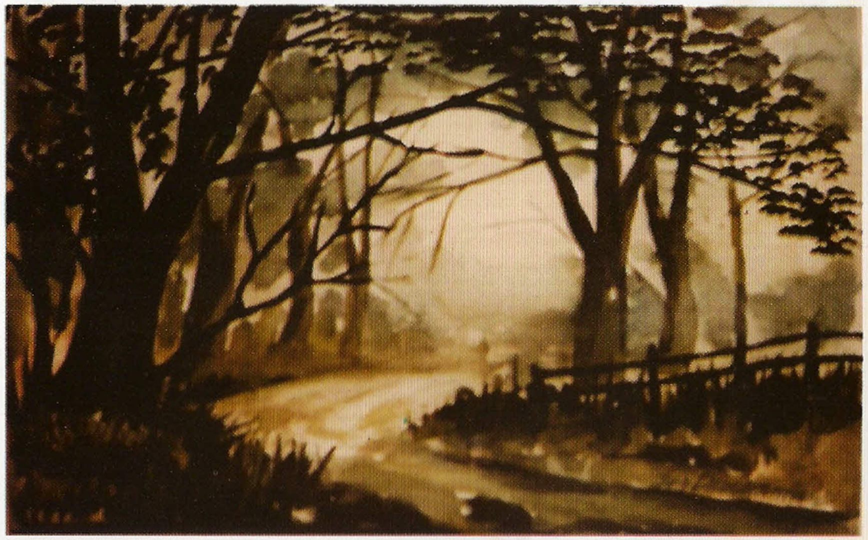
Grete Marstein
(Norwegian Art Historian and Visual Artist)
Executive Member - IAA/AIAP (UNESCO)
Traduction: Julienne Chan Soobrayen



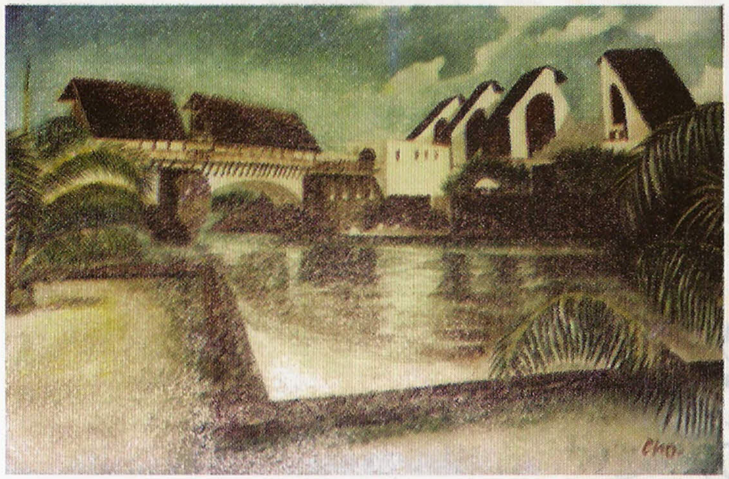
The Mahatma
Oil on Board
40 x 61 cm
1982


Portrait of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam

S.S.R
Father of Nation
Pencil on Paper
22 x 28cm
1982
Private Collection (Hon. Anil Bachoo)

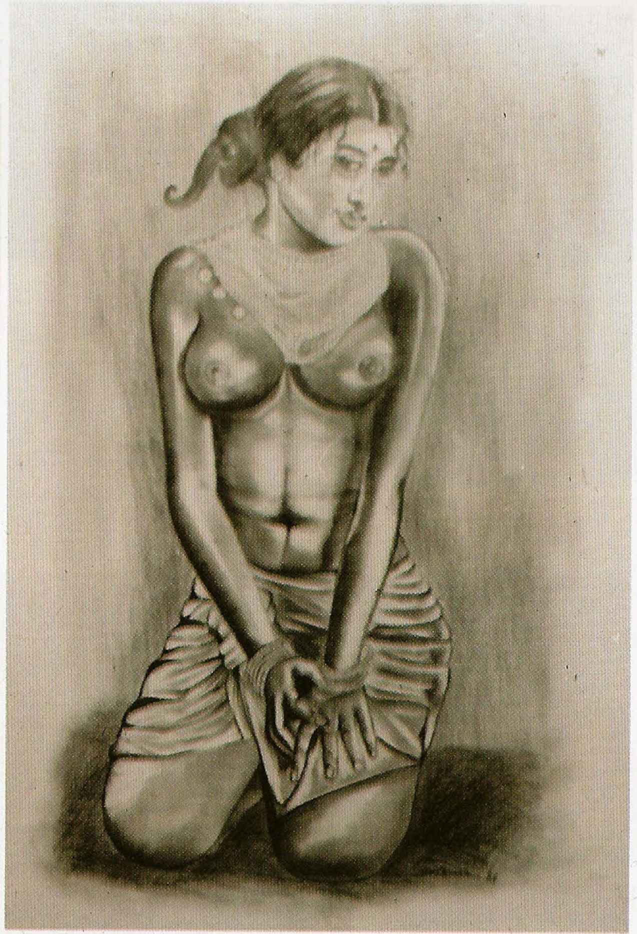


Paysage de l'Est
Water Colour
50 x 60cm
1980
Private Collection U.K

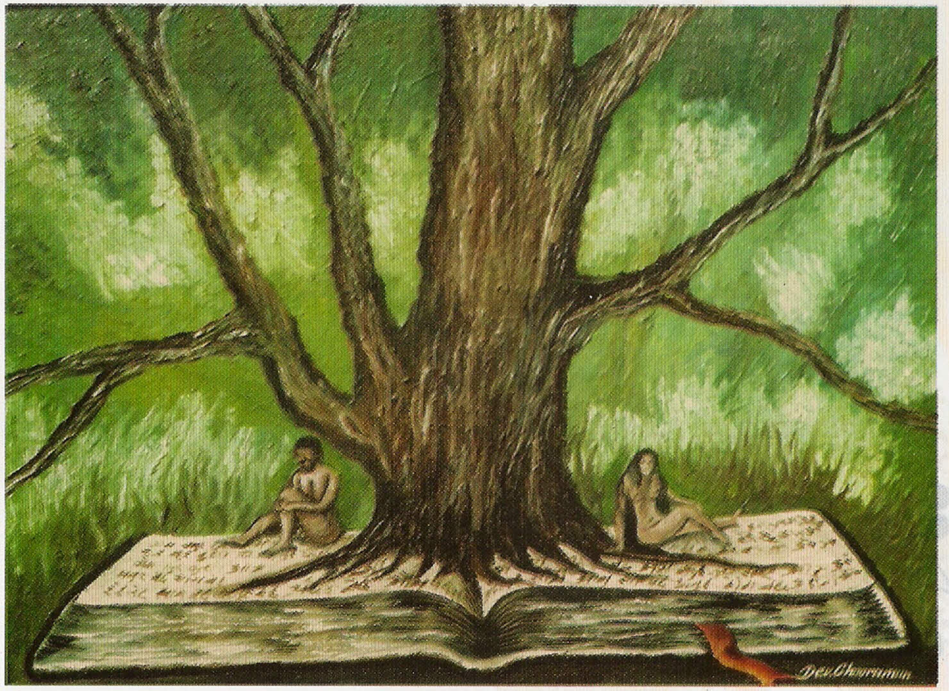


Tou – es – rock
Oil on Canvas
46 x 62 cm
1984

For every beauty, there is an eye somewhere to see,
For every truth there is an ear somewhere to hear,
For every love there is a heart somewhere to receive it.



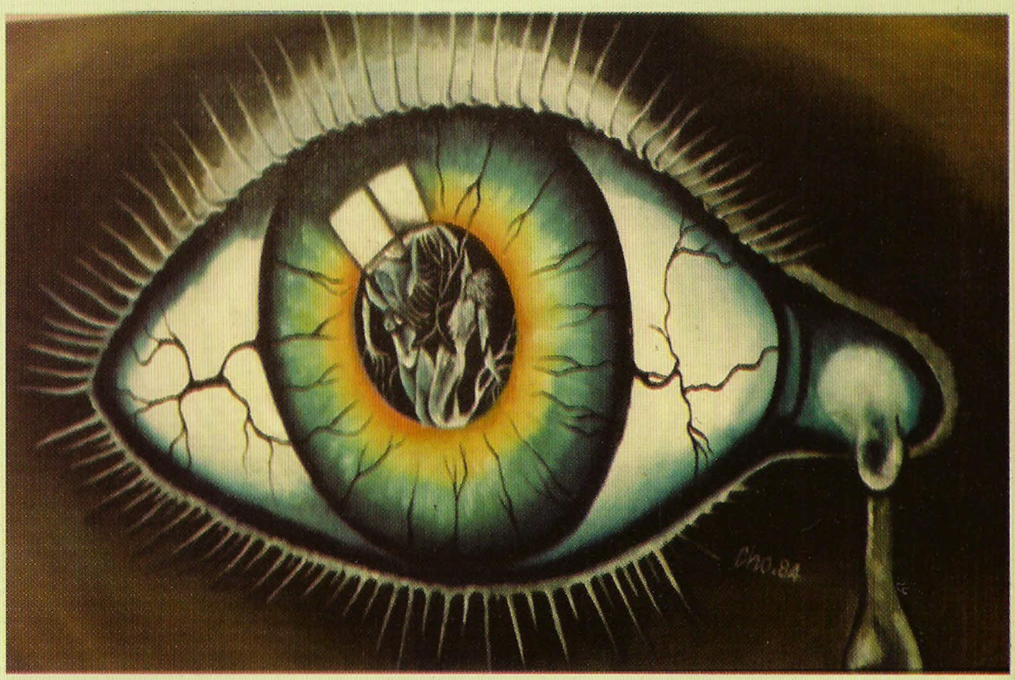
Adhiwashi Woman
Pencil on Paper
60 x 80cm
1985
Private Collection



The Eternal Book of Knowledge
Oil on Canvas
46 x 60cm
1985
Private Collection Hon. Satish Faugoo

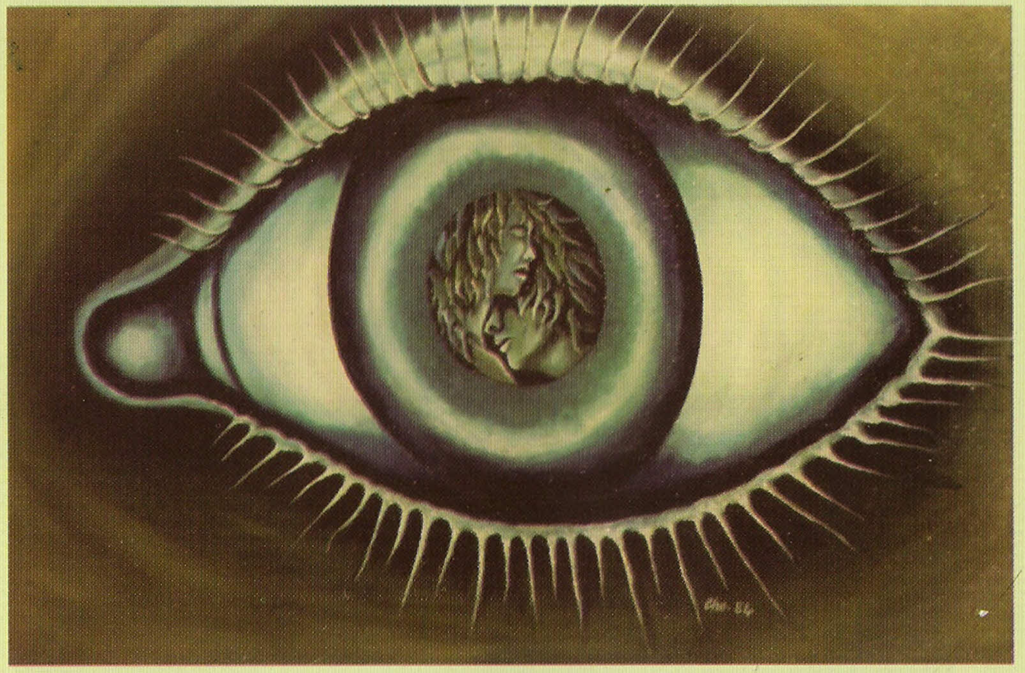
I found I could say things with colour and shapes that I couldn't say any other way things I had no words for.

Georgia O'keeffe



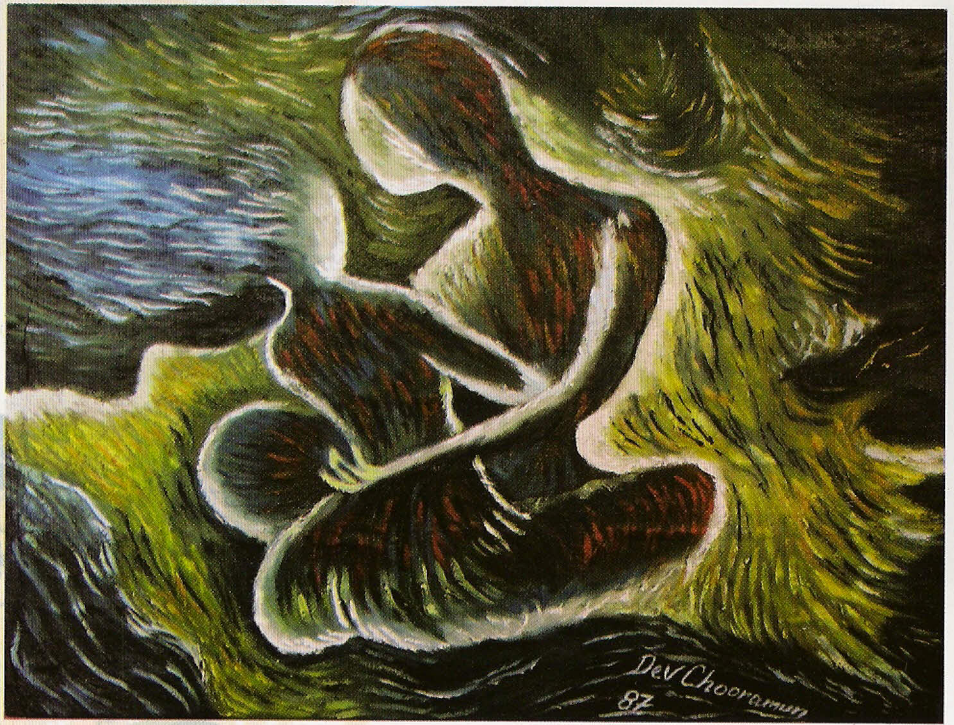
Split Apart
Oil on Canvas
52 x 80 cm
1984
Private Collection in Paris

' The whole world wonders what is true happiness, true happiness is inside, true happiness is in the heart, true happiness is in this life '

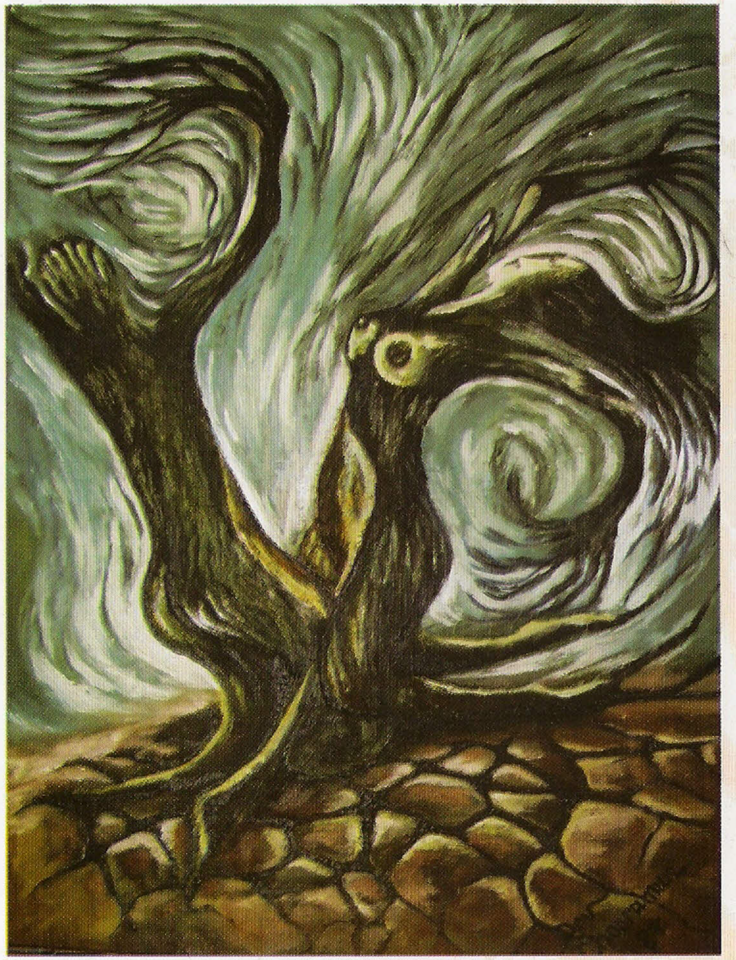


Caught in Ecstasy
Oil on Canvas
52 x 80 cm
1984
Private Collection in Paris

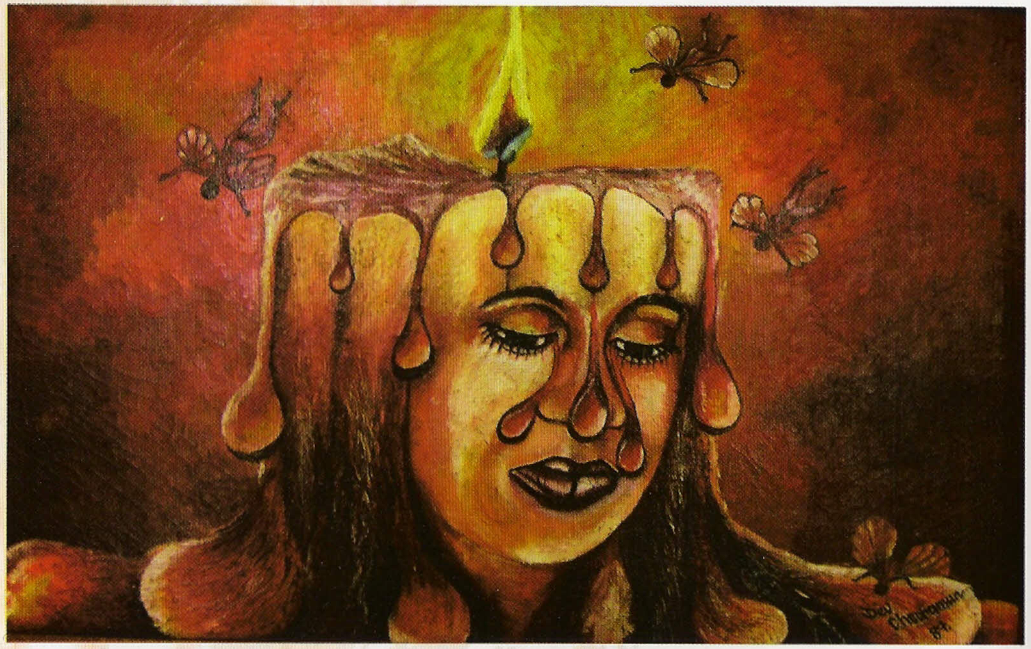
> *'Clouds came floating into my life,*
> *no longer to carry rain or usher storm,*
> *but to add colour to my sunset sky'*
>
> Rabindranath Tagore



Nirvana
Oil on Canvas
46 x 61 cm
1987
Work exhibited in Johannesburg



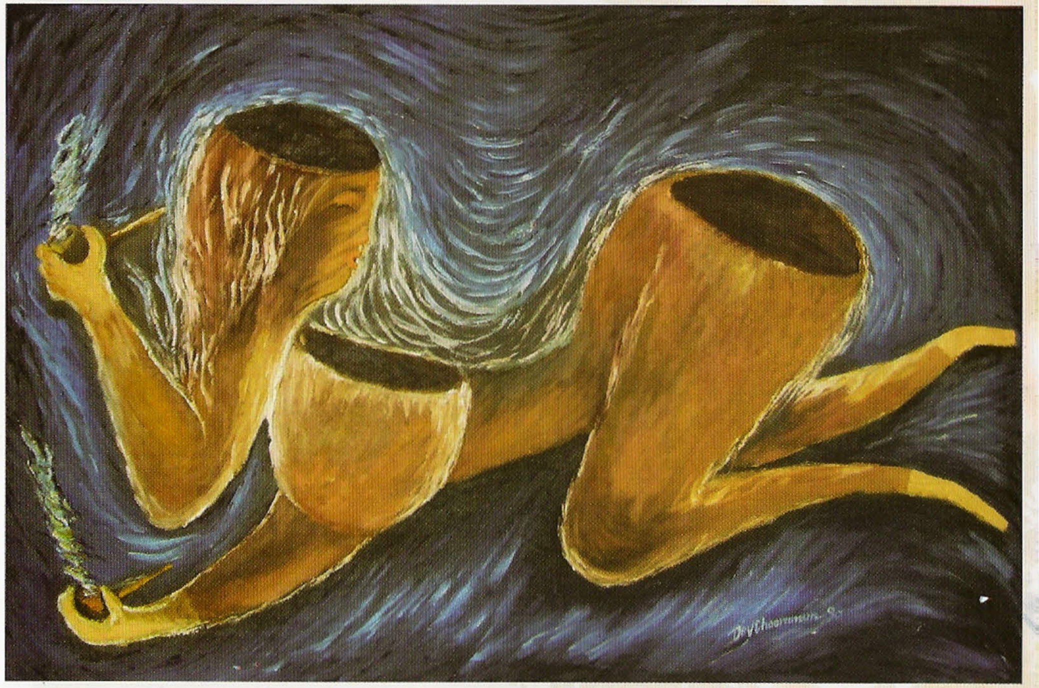
The Tempest
Oil on Canvas
46 x 61 cm
1987
Work exhibited in Durban



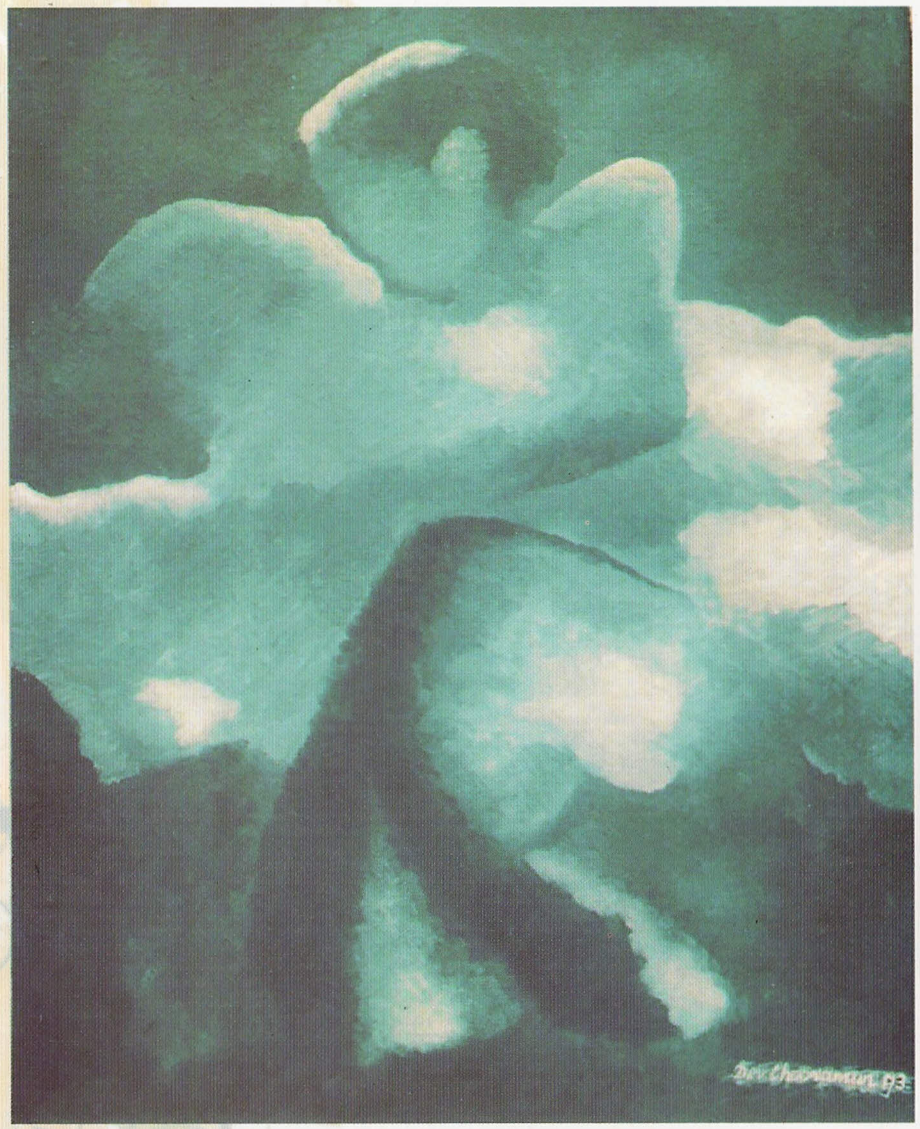
Burning End
Oil on Canvas
53 x 80 cm
1987

' Life is short and art is long '
(ars longa vita brevis)

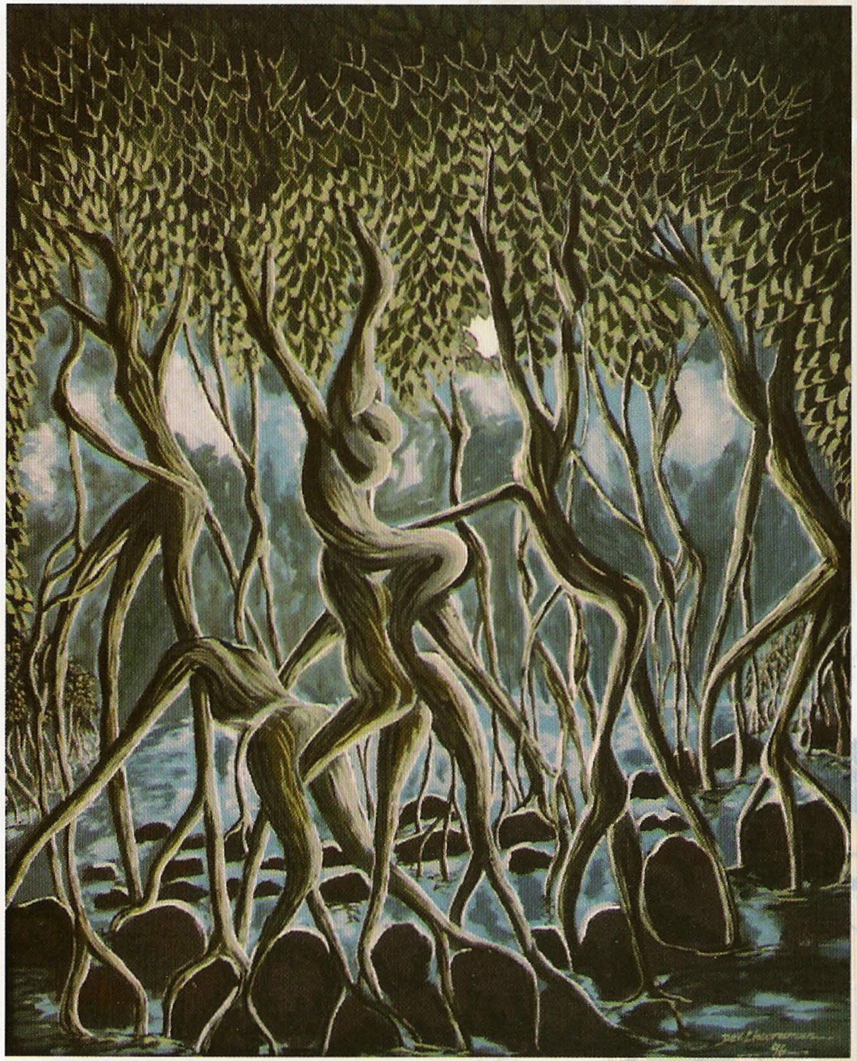
Lucius Seneca



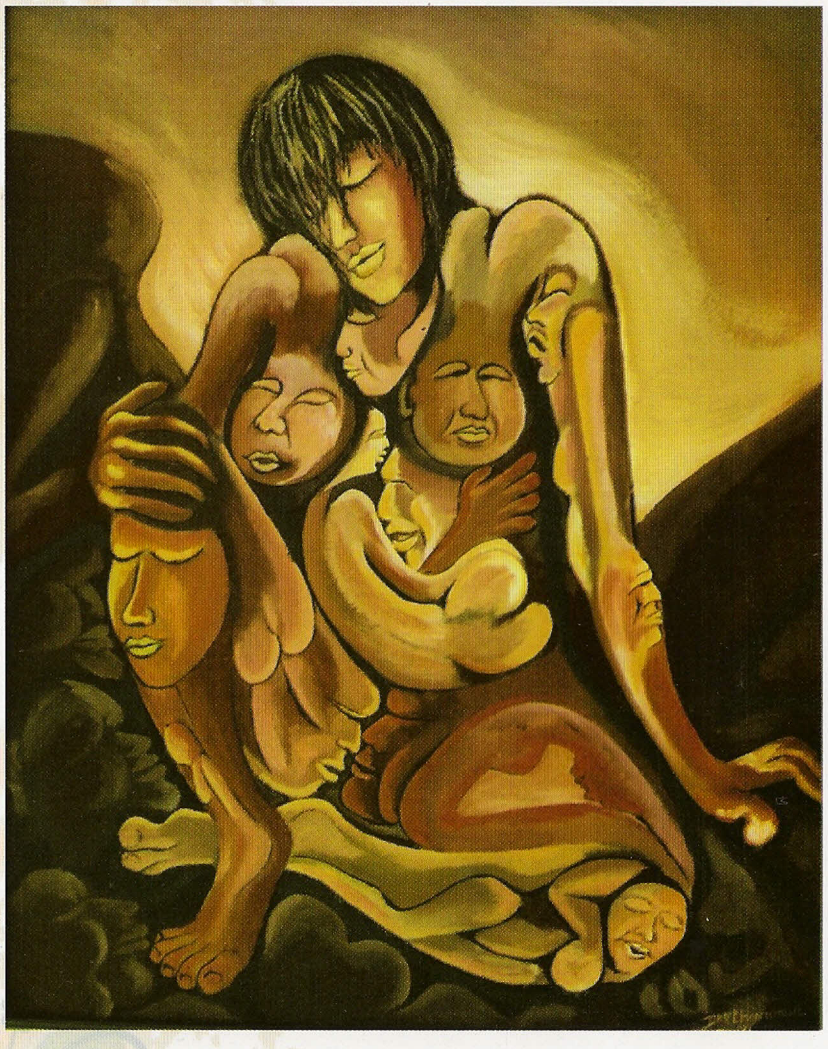
Curé – la – Pipe
Oil on Canvas
61 x 91 cm
1990



Evasion Erotique
Oil on Canvas
100 x 81 cm
1993
Exhibited at Salon D'Automne, Paris

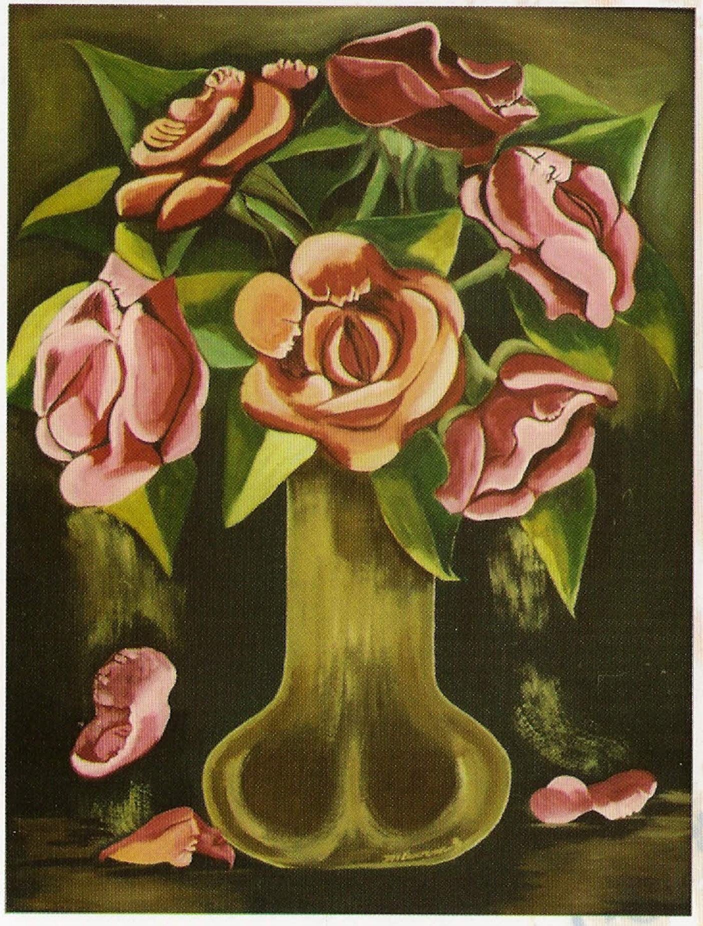


Interaction Nocturne
Acrylic on Board
100 x 80 cm
1996

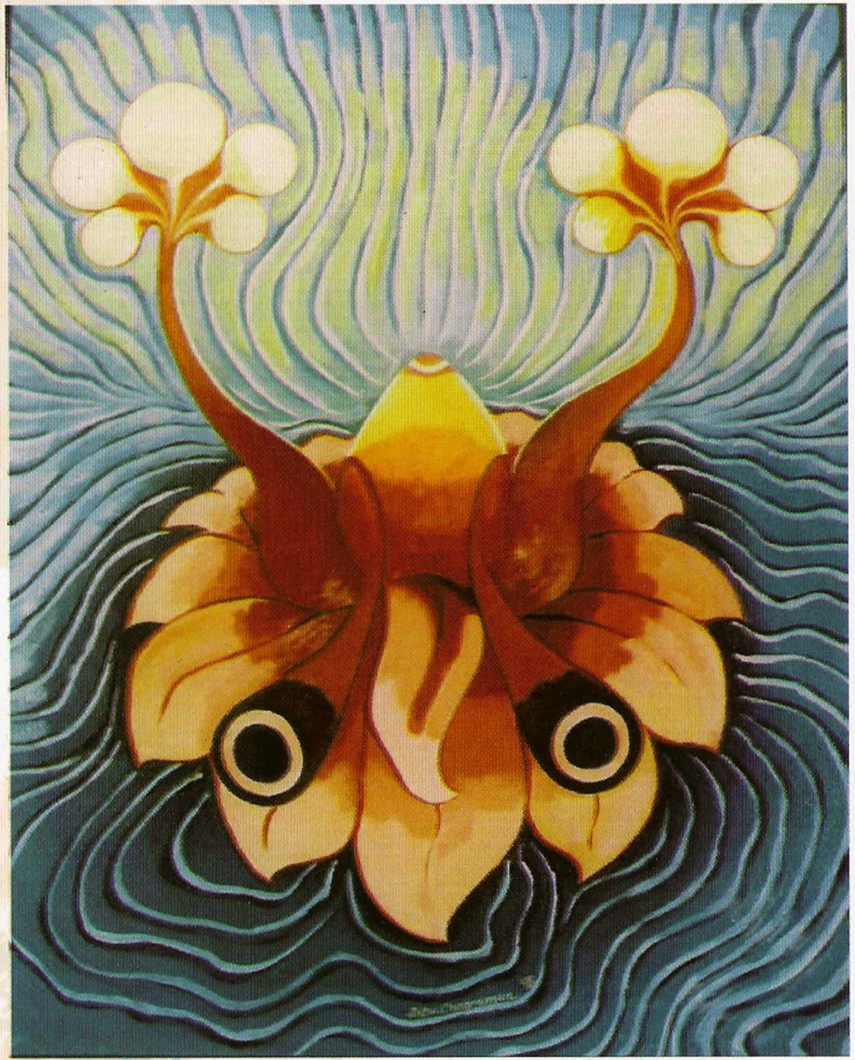


Som – no – lence
Acrylic on Board
100 x 80 cm
1996
Exhibited in China

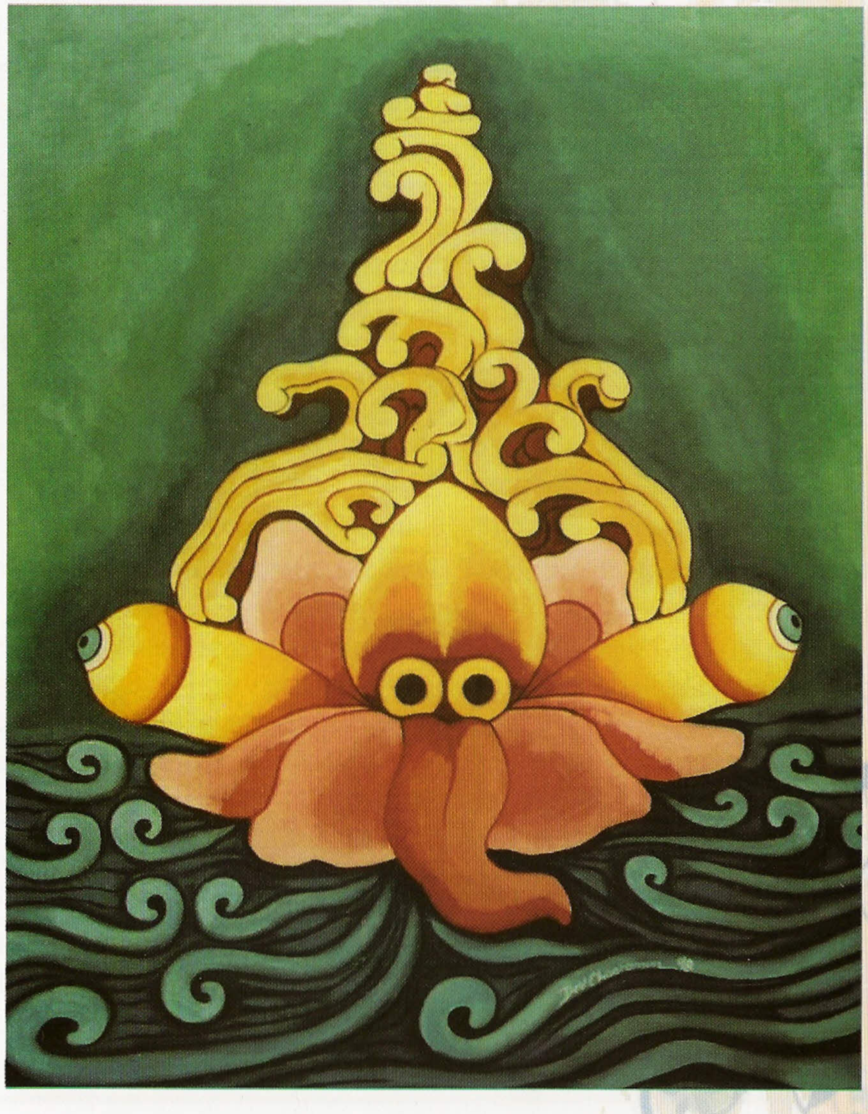
... being flowers of the garden of God we are expected to live in our natural state of peace and spread our fragrance all around us ...



Delicatesse Parfumée
Acrylic on Board
90 x 120cm
1996
Private Collection



Harmony
Oil on Board
100 x 80cm
1998
Exhibited in China



Self Realisation
Oil on Board
100 x 80cm
1998
Collection – Ministry of Arts & Culture

Lors de mon premier voyage à l’île Maurice, j’ai découvert les œuvres de Dev Chooramun. Ce fut une belle surprise car j’avais l’impression d’aller au delà du rêve paradisiaque que nous évoquent ces lieux exquis.

En effet, je remarquais tout d’abord cette série de grandes fleurs tropicales aux formes évasées, très subjectives, approchant la philosophie tantrique. Ce fut ensuite cette suite de Dodos et autres volatiles.

Ma curiosité s’arrêta tout net devant cet aspect assez surréaliste, à savoir, le détournement des formes par des représentations de végétaux et d’animaux, pas du tout à la façon de Giuseppe Arcimboldo mais de celle de Dev Chooramun. Les dernières œuvres qu’il nous présente aujourd’hui sont dans cette lignée.

Si le but final est la construction picturale, l’esprit n’en est pas moins l’élément enfanté. Or Dev Chooramun n’en manque pas. Le moins que l’on puisse dire de Dev Chooramun, c’est que toutes ses œuvres, toiles ou dessins, sont les fruits d’un esprit curieux, critique et original, qui abonde vers des découvertes inattendues pour tout autre. Pour réussir cette tâche il fallait à Dev Chooramun, en plus de son talent de peintre, qu’il s’étende depuis la maîtrise des formes et des couleurs, en découvrant ce qui se cache derrière son pinceau en mouvement, jusqu’à la traduction picturale d’un esprit inventif et observateur, toujours prêt à innover, inventer et recomposer le Monde.

Jean-Luc Turlure
Peintre, Sculpteur, Artiste, Directeur et Administrateur
(Maison des Artistes - Paris)

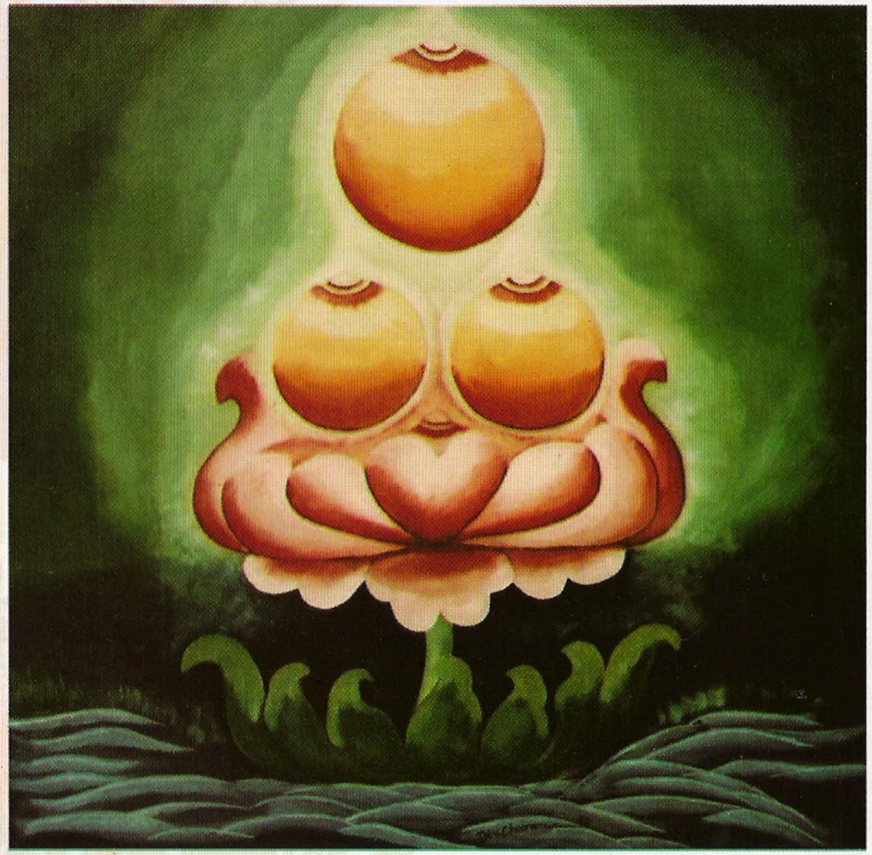
On my first visit to Mauritius, I discovered the works of Dev Chooramun. It was a pleasant surprise as I got the impression of stepping beyond the earthly paradise that these exotic places represent for us.

Indeed, I noticed, first of all, this series of large tropical flowers which open up, highly subjective and coming close to the Tantric philosophy. Then it was the series of Dodos and other birds.

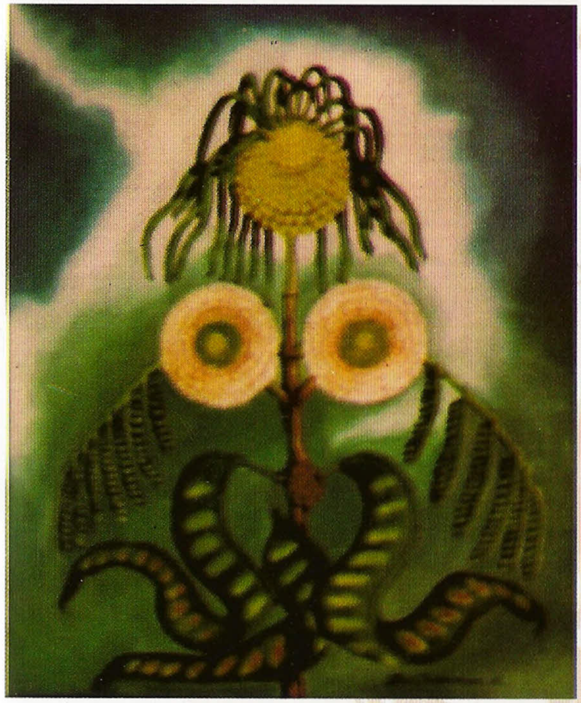
My curious quest came to a sudden halt in front of this quite surrealist characteristic, in other words, the redefinition of forms by representations of plants and animals, not exactly in the manner of Giuseppe Arcimboldo but in Dev Chooramun own style. The last works which he presents us today are in this line.

If the final aim is the pictorial realisation, the mind is still an important element. It just happens that Dev Chooramun has an inquisitive, critical and original mind. The least that we can say of Dev Chooramun, is that all of his artworks, paintings and drawings are the fruits of his mind which is rich in unexpected discoveries for others. To succeed in this task, it was necessary for Dev Chooramun, though being a talented artist, to start mastering forms and colours, while discovering what lies under the strokes of his brush, until he conveys on canvas images created by his inventive mind and his sharp sense of observation, always willing to innovate, invent and reconstruct the World.

Jean-Luc Turlure
Peintre, Sculpteur, Artiste, Directeur et Administrateur
(Maison des Artistes - Paris)
Traduction: Julienne Chan Soobrayen

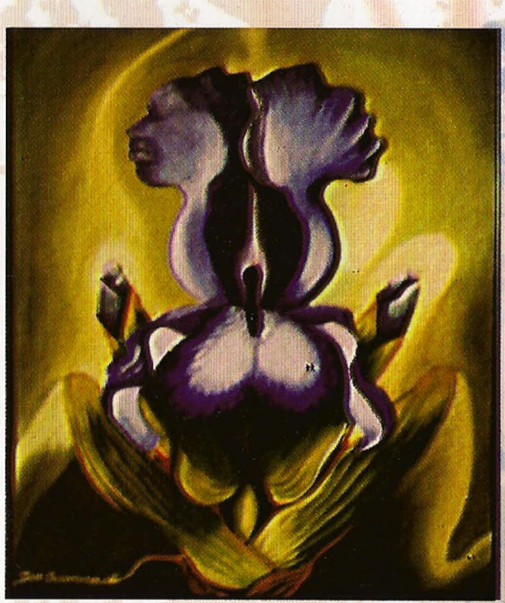


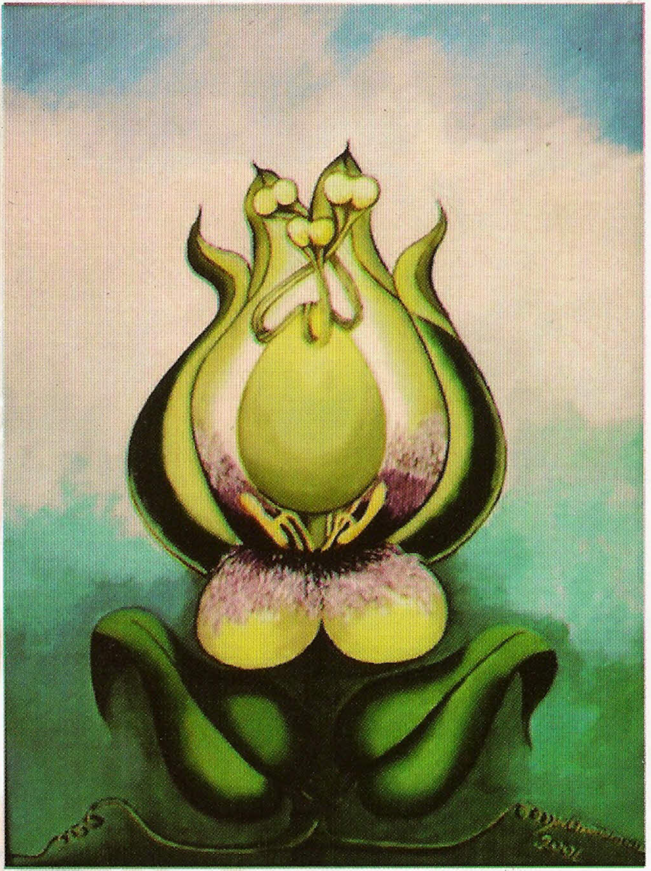
Triple Gems
Oil on Board
60 x 60 cm
1998



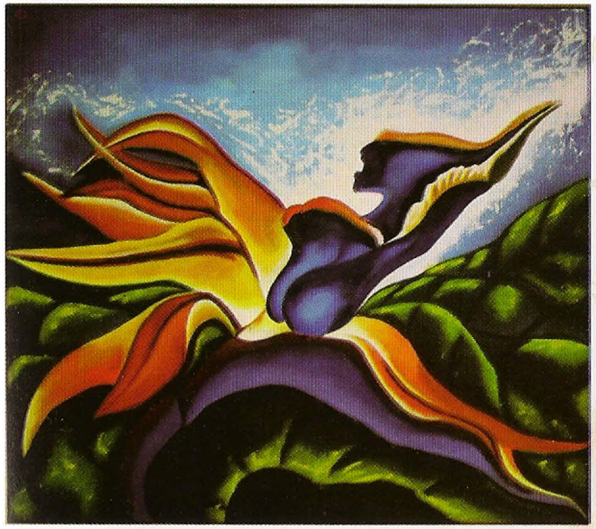
Blissful Cassia
Oil on Canvas
60 x 50cm
2001
Collection - Ministry of Housing

Captivating Irish
Oil on Canvas
60 x 50cm
2001
Collection - Prime Minister's Office

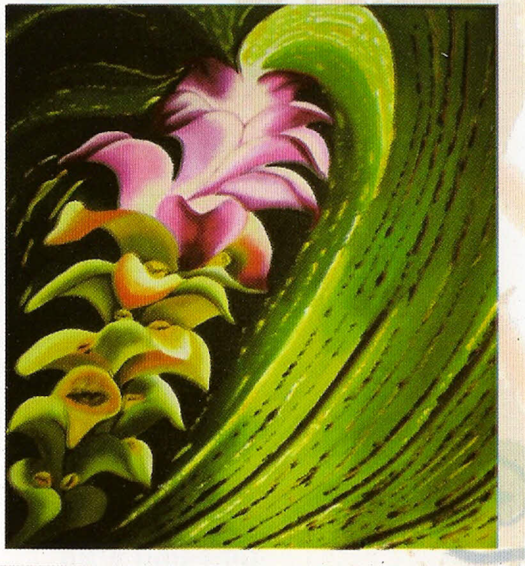




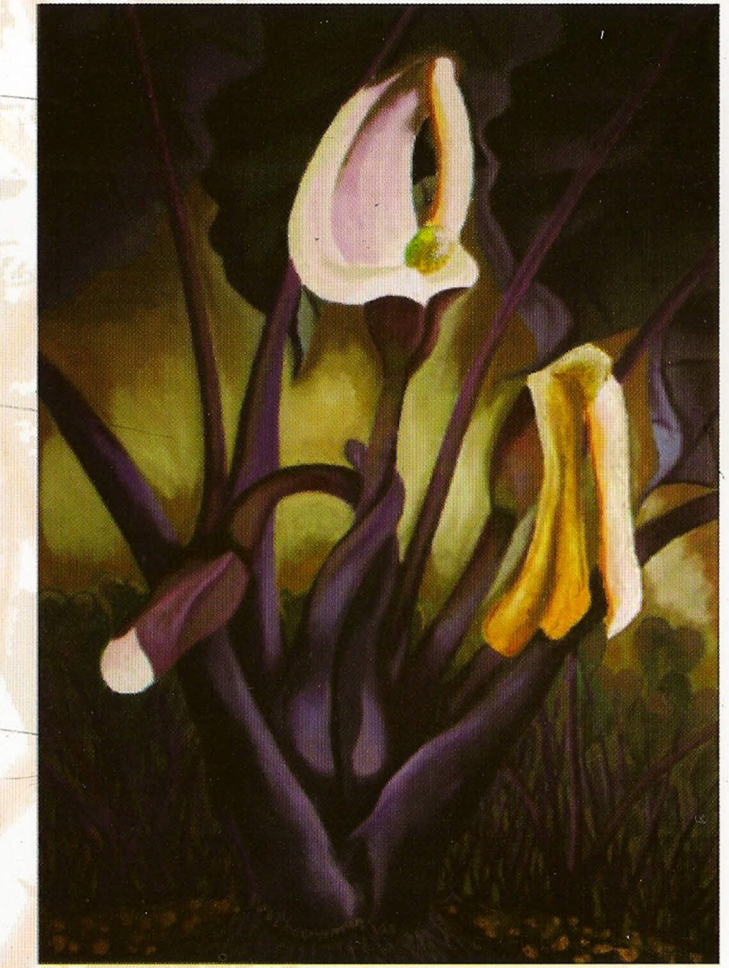
The Passion
Oil on Canvas
60x50cm
2001
Collection – Prime Minister's Office



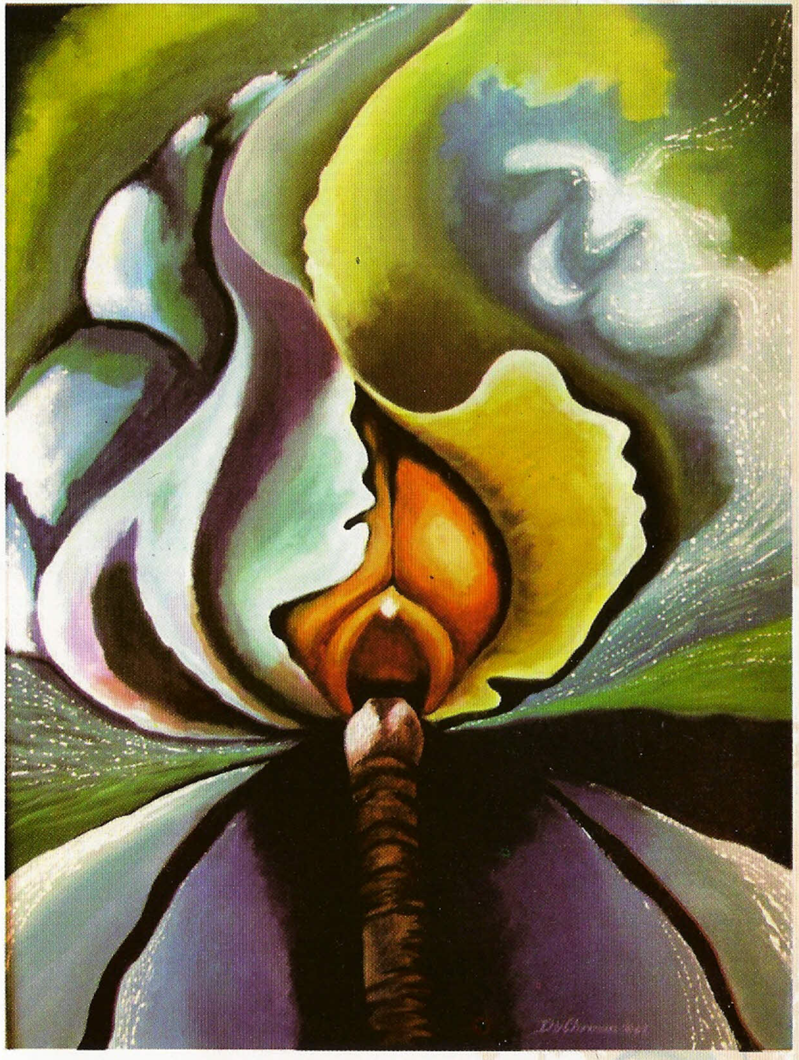
Angels from Paradise
Mixed Media
80 x 90.5 cm
2004
Collection – l'Alliance Française – Bell Village



Touch me Not
Mixed Media
80 x 90.5cm
2004
Collection – Ministry of Tourism



Co-i-tion Trail
Mixed Media
62 x 90cm
2003
Exhibited at Beijing Biennale 2005
Collection - Chinese Artist Association



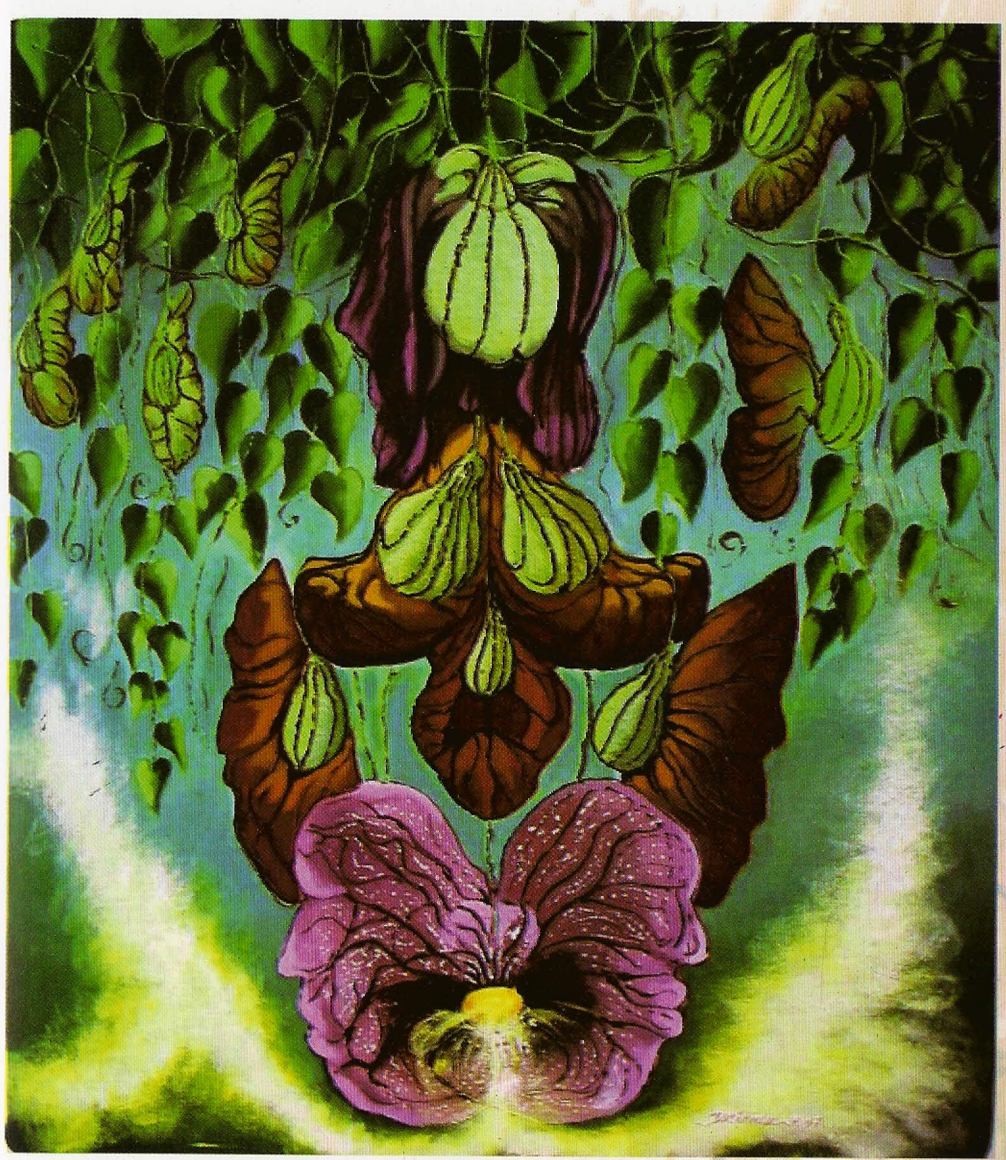
The Endless Way
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 80cm
2007
Exhibited at Pretoria Art Museum

« ... bâtie sur la méditation, la démarche de ce chercheur d'illumination s'inscrit de manière contemporaine. Le peintre pratique une forme de philosophie Bouddhiste. Un itinéraire pictural qu'il transcrit en compositions habiles à l'excellente occupation de l'espace, le point focal mobilisant l'œil. Les couleurs du bleu à l'orange, se veulent expression d'une montée spirituelle ...»

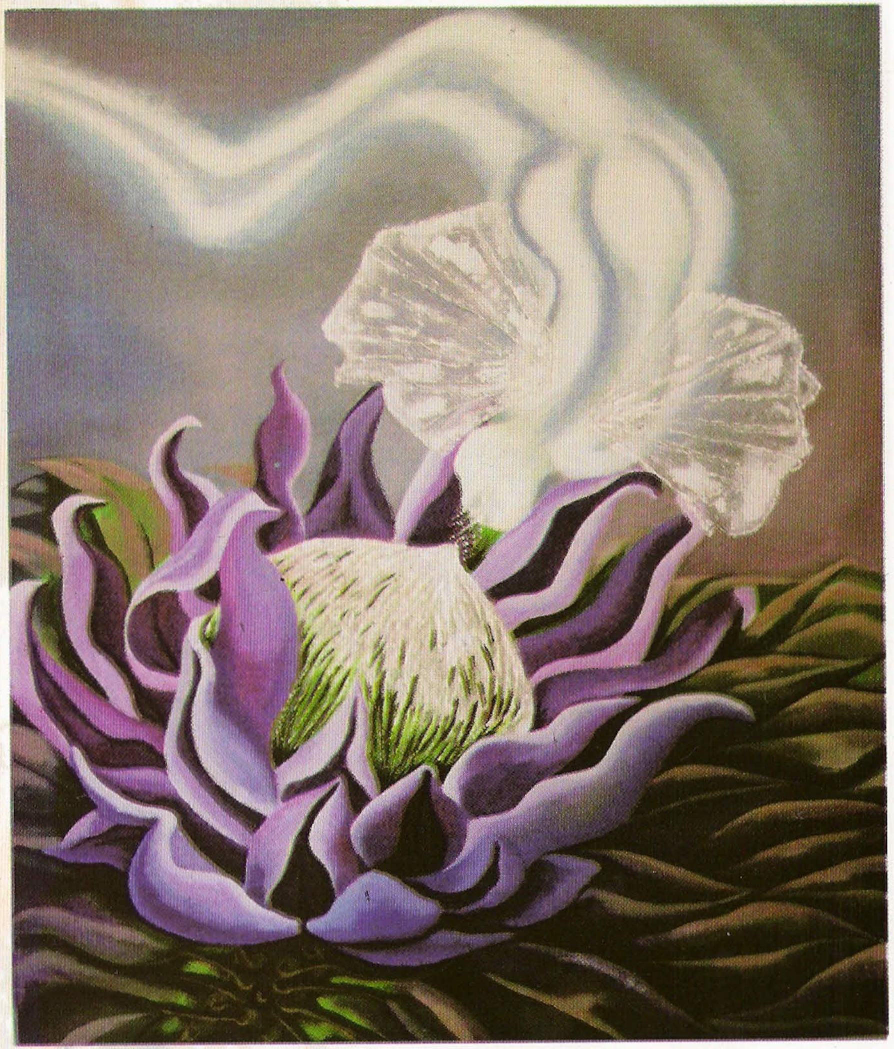
Jeanne Gerval Arouff
l'express - 17 Août 1998

« Si la fleur regardait Malcolm, Dev Chooramun devient fleur. Plus exactement, la fleur, dont il scrute le cœur et les reins l'introduit dans un monde mystique où s'opposent communion, création, enfantement, croissance, apogée, déclin, mort, un monde mystique tournant au rythme des différents cycles de vie. »

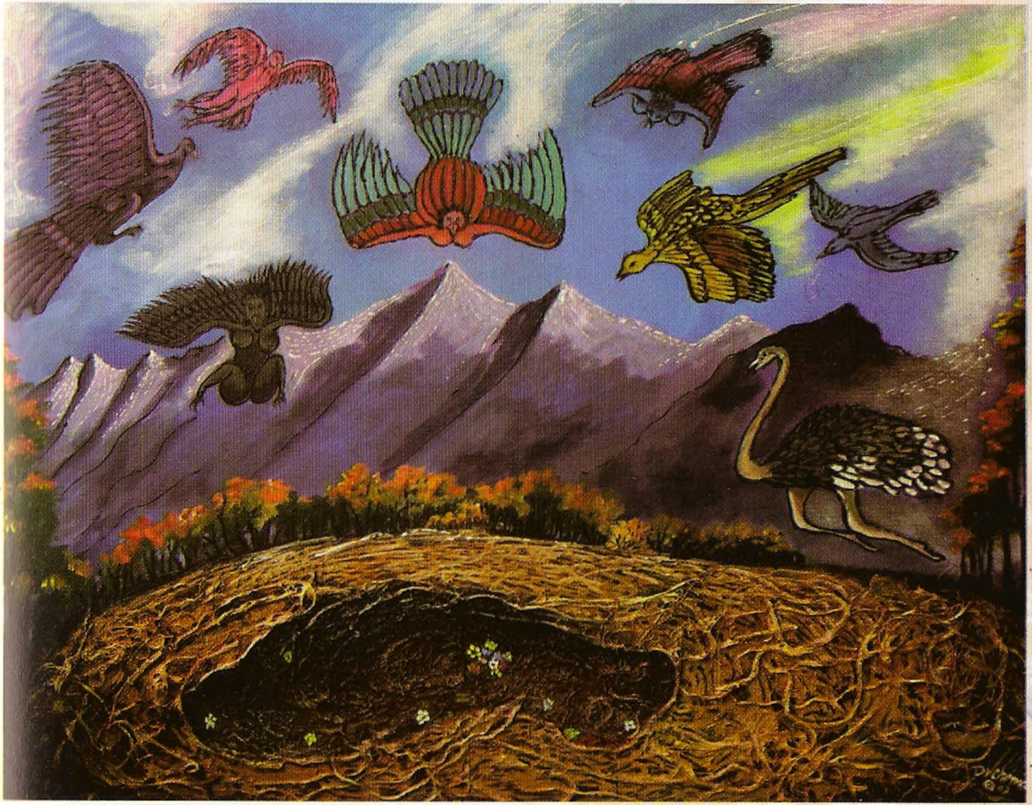
Yvan Martial
l'express - 28 Novembre 2004



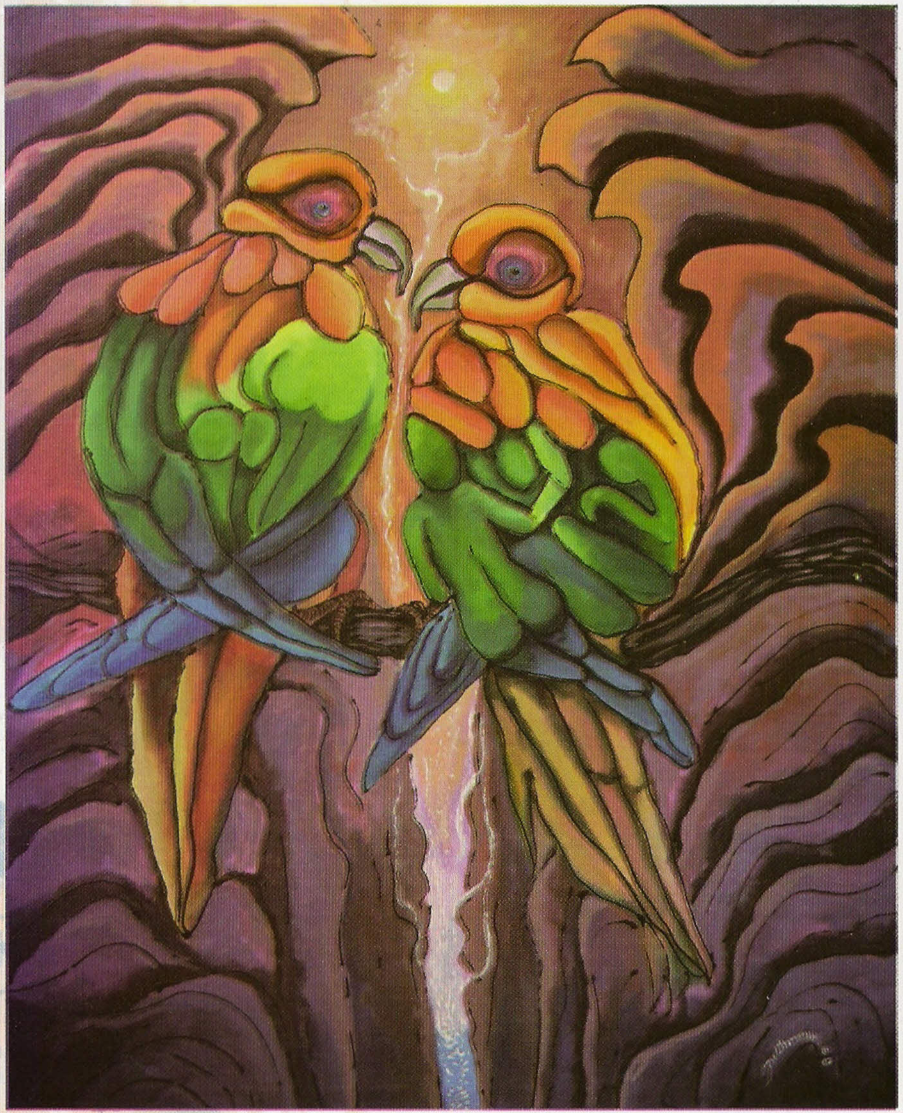
Effervescing Incense
Mixed Media
108 x 92cm
2007



Nec – tar – if – erous Soul
Mixed Media
85 x 100cm
2007



Symbiosis
Mixed Media
90 x 120 cm
2008
Exhibited at Beijing Biennale 2008
Collection – China Art Museum



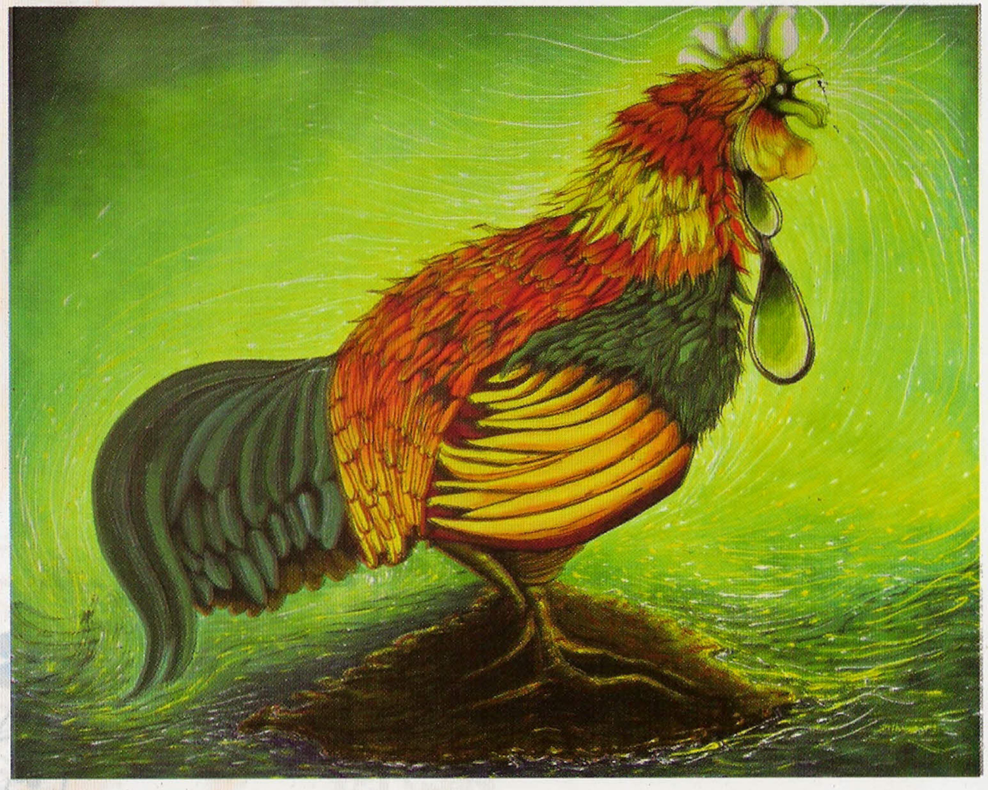
Duel
Olympic Fine Art Contest
Oil on Canvas
90 x 120cm
2008

Exhibited in China, Greece & USA

Received **Gold Medal** by
Ministry of Culture P.R.C
&
The organizing Committee of the XXIX Olympiad,
China International Exhibition Centre

Collection: Chinese Olympic Museum

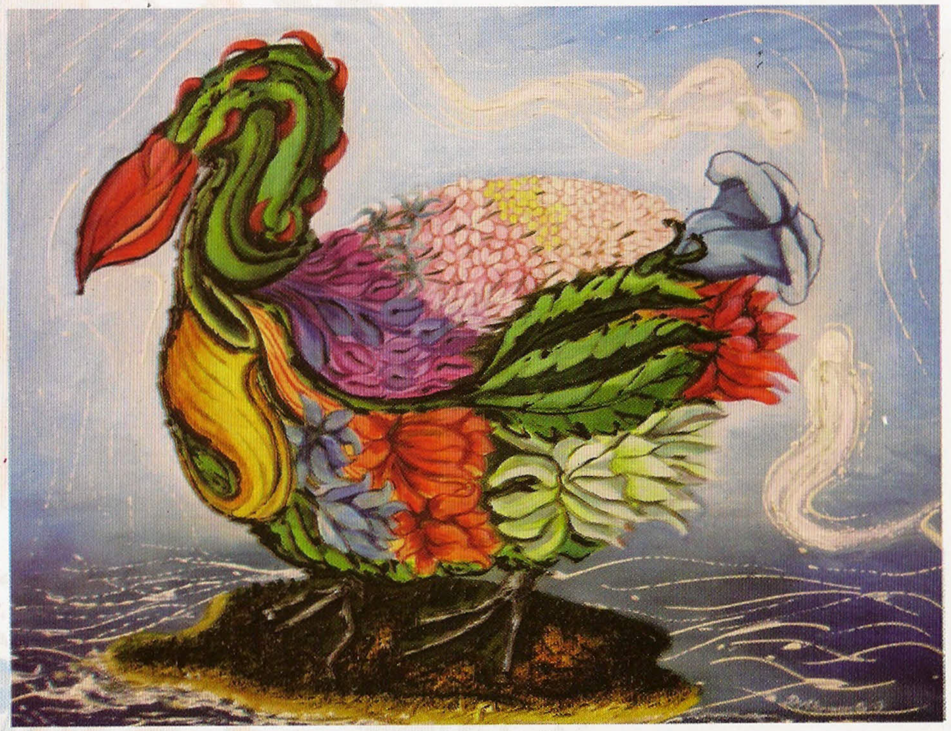
A pair of peace – conscious parakeets
Perched on the wings of Time
Far – above the globe
Cast their loving eyes
Over mankind
Pray for unity and prosperity
And sing the bliss of harmony
Down on Earth



Reveil Matin
Acrylic – Mixed Media on Canvas
120 x 150cm
2008
Selected for Mauritius Triennale 2008
Exhibited at SSR Gallery 08, Salon de Mai 09
Covent Garden, Paris - September 2009

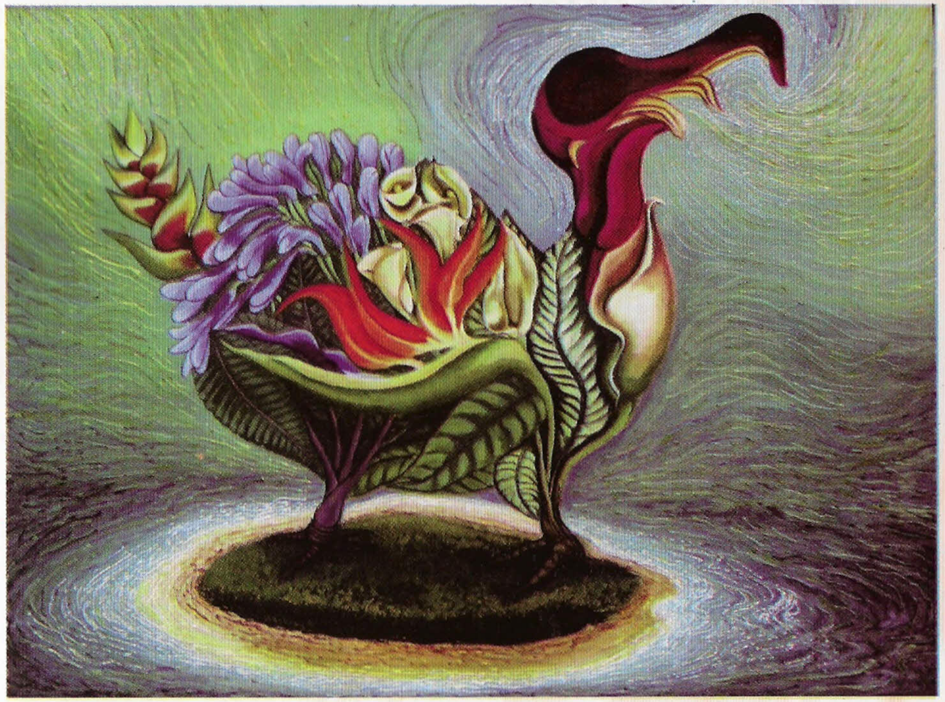
MATiN

Octob à Mars
Mo finn sant ler d'été
Soleil finn levé
Mo finn sant
Pour reveil moricien
Ena finn tann mwa santé
Finn levé, finn respire lèr d'été
Finn baigne dan soleil matin
Lot finn tann mwa santé
Sommeil finn kassé mé lipié
Finne maille dan dras
Lot pa finn tann mwa santé
Zoreil ti fermé
Pendule biologik pa finn soné
Liver finn vinne
Devan mo laport
Mo pe alle dormi
Eski octob prochain mo pu levé ?
Si zot trop fatigué pas lev mwa
Lesse mwa dormi !



Mauritian Nation
Acrylic on Canvas
45.5 x 53 cm
2008

Exhibited in Spain, Italy, Germany, France & Mexico 2010



Ekologik
Acrylic on Canvas
90 x 120cm
2010

Collection - Mahatma Gandhi Institute

"
Nu Lamer bleu-vert
Nu La terre vert
Nu Verdière prospèr
Nu Zoizo vivant dan nu la terre
A Nu preserve nu nature

CURRICULUM VITAE

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E-mail : d.chooramun@intnet.mu
Phone Number : 4131751 [Home], 7513006 [Mobile]

Education

- **B A Fine Arts** – Punjab University India (1979)
- **Post Graduate Certificate in Education PGCE** in VISUAL ARTS
  Mauritius Institute of Education (2006)

Present Occupation

Educator Head of Dept Art Design Design Com
Darwin College, central Flacq
President National Committee ACA AAC
Action for Artistic creativity Mauritius
Regional Coordinator for Africa
IAA -AIAP (UNESCO)
(International Artists Associations)
Resource Person
Mauritius Examination Syndicate

Certificates of Participation

Punjab University	1976
Sixth International Ramayana Conference	1990
Solon d'automne Paris	1993
Biennial Seychelles	1995 / 1997
Africa Johannesburg Biennial	1995
Biennial China	1997
International Portrait Exhibition (UNESCO)	2002
1st and 3rd Triennial Mauritius	2002 / 2008
AIFAC / NAG	2003
SADC-Pretoria	2003
Beijing Biennial	2005 / 2008
International Fine Art contest, Spain	2007
Olympic Fine Arts contest	2008
European Convention, Paris	2008

Rewards

st price in Model Making	**Punjab University**	1976
rd price Chart Making	**Punjab University**	1977
Diploma in International Fine Arts Contest	**Spain**	2006
Gold Medal Olympic Fine Arts Contest	**China**	2009
Trophy in the field of Fine Arts		
MARVPS / Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam Prime Minister of Mauritius		7 March 2010
Trophy in recognition of outstanding achievement at International Level		
President of Republic – Sir Aneerood Jugnauth		12 March 2010
Shield on Art Therapy		
Rotary Club Beau Bassin/Rose-Hill		16 May 2010
National Art Gallery		

General

Member of Jury – (National Calligraphy competition)	1993
Jury - Secondary School Painting Competition	1999
Member of National Handicraft Promotion Board	(2001-2003)
Jury – Regional School Painting Competition (Central Flacq)	2005
Jury - Secondary School Painting Competition (Central Flacq)	2007
Jury - School Painting Competition Municipality of Q.Bornes	2007
Jury - National Painting Competition Vacoas/Phoenix	2009
Jury - Bataille Naval de Grand Port 1810 Painting Competition	2010
Fine Art Curator (ACA/AAC-IAA/AIAP/UNESCO)	
Art Therapist for children and adults	

Workshops

Organized the following workshops in Mauritius

• Print Making workshop for local artists	2006
• 1st Sculpture workshop	2006
• Sand sculpture workshop at Belle Mare (Public Beach)	2007 / 2008
• Sand Sculpture at Victoria Hotel	2007 / 2008
• Rencontre with French Artists at Dev Arts Studio	2009

Exhibitions

Held **13 Solo Exhibitions** till date

- Max Boullé Art Gallery
- Maison de Culture et de Loisir
- Basdeo Bissondeal College, Flacq
- Rodrigues Island
- Le Touessrock Hotel
- Maison de Poëte, Port Louis
- Orchard Centre, Quatres Bornes
- Foyer du Theatre, Port Louis
- L'alliance Française, Bell-Village
- L'alliance Française, Mahebourg
- L'alliance Française, Goodlands
- Anahita Hotel
- IBL Art Gallery

Organizes annual Salon **'Art Action' (ACA)**

Group Exhibitions

Ministry of Arts & Culture - Artist Day	1988 & 1992
Municipality of Beau Bassin /Rose Hill	1989
British Council	1993
CEFEL – Freeport Operation, Mer Rouge	1996,1997,1998
Gopio Conference [Mauritius]	1996
MGI – Mahatma Gandhi Institute - *Rencontre avec l'inde*	1996
Terre de Paix - *'Tablo Kolektif'*	2005
MIE – Mauritius Institute of Education	2006
The Residence Hotel	2008
Le Meridien Hotel	2008
Sugar Beach Hotel	2008
BOI – Board of Investment	2009
Partage Art Exhibition	2009

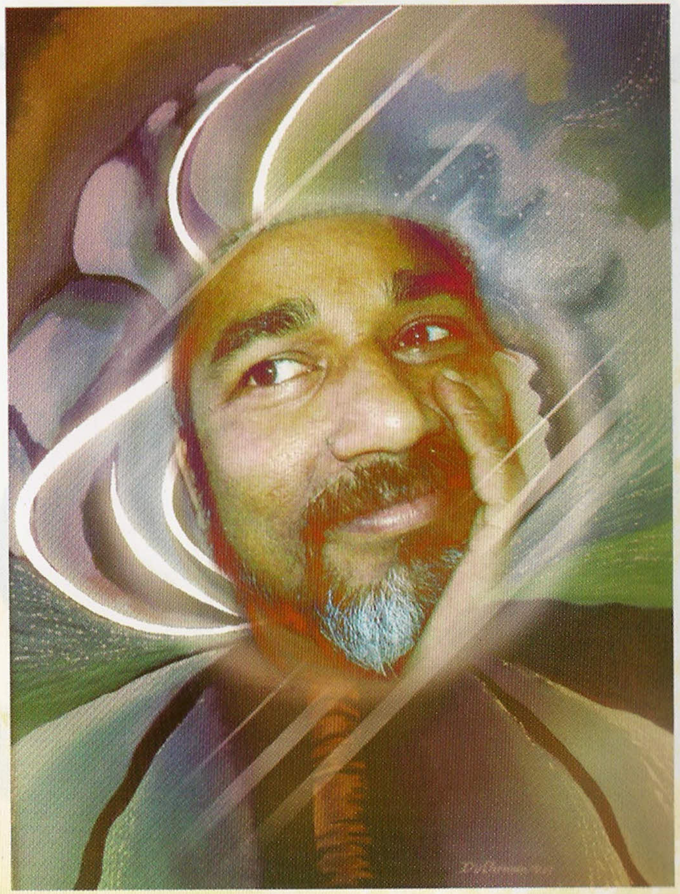
Group Exhibitions - Abroad

India, Reunion Island, Seychelles, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban, Beijing, Malaysia, Spain, Paris, Germany, Italy, UK, USA, Canada, Mexico.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dev Chooramun would like to thank you:

- IBL - Property Management
- NAG - National Art Gallery
- Ministry of Art & Culture
- Garage Deeraj Ganga
- Veer P. Kurrumchand
- V. Thakoor
- Julienne Chan Soobrayen
- Khemraj & Vijaya Chooramun
- to the individuals who have been essential to support this exhibition.



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www.devchooramun.info

30 YEARS

Dev Chooramun would like to thank you:
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Khemraj Designs

DEV CHOORAMUN

30 YEARS

1980 - 2010

IBL Art Gallery

Dr. Ferrier Str.
Port - Louis

13th - 18th Dec. 10
9.00 a.m - 5.00 p.m

No.	TITLE	MEDIUM	SIZE [cm]	YEAR	PRICE [Rs]
1	Life After Death	Oil on Board	45x95	1980	NFS
2	The Mahatma	Oil on Board	40x61	1982	8000
3	Body & Soul	Oil on Canvas	46x61	1986	7000
4	Tempest	Oil on Canvas	46x61	1987	NFS
5	Nirvana	Oil on Canvas	46x61	1987	NFS
6	Burning End	Oil on Canvas	53x80	1987	NFS
7	Cure - la - Pipe	Oil on Canvas	61x91	1990	9000
8	Surya	Oil on Canvas	46x61	1990	NFS
9	Evasion Erotique	Oil on Canvas	80x100	1993	12000
10	Adam & Eve	Oil on Canvas	80x100	1994	12000
11	Libido	Acrylic on Board	80x100	1995	10000
12	Introversion - Extroversion	Oil on Canvas	80x100	1995	12000
13	Morsure Mortelle	Acrylic on Board	60x60	1996	9000
14	Green Trap	Acrylic	100x80	1996	10000
15	Interaction Nocturne	Acrylic	100x80	1996	15000
16	Som-no-lence	Acrylic	80x100	1996	15000
17	Triple Gems	Oil on Board	60x60	1998	9000
18	Craving Aflames	Oil on Board	60x100	1998	10000
19	Out of Cocoon	Oil on Board	80x100	1998	12000
20	Harmony	Oil on Board	80x100	1998	12000
21	Poly-morphous-per-verse	Oil on Canvas	50x60	2000	10000
22	The Liberated Fruit	Oil on Canvas	51x61	2001	10000
23	Welcome	Oil on Canvas	50x60	2001	9000
24	Orgone	Oil on Canvas	51x61	2001	9000
25	Conceptile soul	Acrylic	70x100	2003	12000
26	Libidinous Soul	Mixed-Media	60x80	2004	10000
27	Fountain of Bliss	Mixed-Media	60x80	2004	10000
28	Amorphophallus Titan	Mixed-Media	60x80	2004	12000
29	Nym-pho-ma-Nia	Mixed-Media	60x80	2004	9000
30	Clonic Spasm	Mixed-Media	60x80	2004	12000
31	Bride at Dawn	Acrylic	62x90	2004	10000
32	Rapture	Acrylic	62x90	2004	10000
33	In the Lap of Power	Mixed-Media	60x80	2004	12000
34	Gloaming Night	Oil on Canvas	85x75	2006	12000
35	The Endless way	Acrylic on Canvas	60x80	2007	12000
36	Tsunami	Mixed-Media	90x62	2007	10000
37	Effervescing Incense	Mixed-Media	92x108	2007	20000
38	Nec-tar-if-erous Soul	Mixed-Media	85x100	2007	20000
39	The Honeymoon	Acrylic	46x53	2007	9000
40	Reveil Matin	Mixed-Media	120x150	2008	60000
41	Gift of Fortune	Acrylic	53x46	2008	10000
42	At the Gate of Heaven	Acrylic	46x53	2008	10000
43	Pearl of Wisdom	Acrylic	46x54	2008	10000
44	Mauritian Fragrance	Acrylic	46x55	2008	10000
45	Nation Mauricienne	Acrylic	60x50	2009	12000
46	The Vegetarian Dodo	Acrylic	50x60	2009	12000
47	Dodo the Monarch	Acrylic	50x60	2009	10000
48	Go Green	Acrylic	60x50	2009	12000
49	Propagation	Acrylic	60x50	2009	10000
50	Matureness	Acrylic	60x50	2009	10000
51	About to Glide	Acrylic	60x50	2009	12000
52	Victory of Peace over War	Acrylic	50x60	2009	20000
53	The National Empress	Acrylic	60x50	2010	12000
54	Dodo by Moonlight	Acrylic	45x60	2010	9000
55	Marine Garden	Acrylic	60x50	2010	12000
56	Encysting Dodo	Acrylic	60x50	2010	9000
57	Gaping Venus Glide	Acrylic	60x50	2010	8000
58	Resting Dodo	Acrylic	60x50	2010	10000
59	Lady of the Sea	Acrylic	60x50	2010	8000
60	Au bout du Tunnel	Acrylic	60x50	2010	10000
61	Glorying Sky	Acrylic	50x40	2010	8000
62	Defeating Darkling	Acrylic	50x40	2010	8000
63	The Witness	Acrylic	100x75	2010	40000
64	The Gourmet Visitor	Acrylic	75x100	2010	40000
65	Melting Pot	Acrylic	120x90	2010	60000